

# TRIBUTE TO W. EDGAR WELDEN

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Edgar Welden of Birmingham, AL, for being named the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame's 2016 "Distinguished American Sportsman." Edgar is a distinguished businessman and friend whose life has been marked by service to the people of his community, State, and Nation. His untiring work to benefit young people through athletics makes him most deserving of this honor.

Edgar has an extraordinary record of accomplishment. A Wetumpka native, he grew up with a great passion for sports, playing football, baseball, and basketball in high school before earning a degree from the University of Alabama. His passion for athletics has only grown since then. In fact, he spent 1997 traveling to seven continents and all 50 states to attend more than 250 sporting events, and he chronicled his journeys in his book "Time Out! A Sports Fan's Dream Year."

One of his most valuable contributions to Alabama was his service as director of the important Alabama Development Office and the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and as special assistant to the Governor for Economic Affairs. He has been widely recognized as one of the key players in Governor Guy Hunt's successful first term. This work for the State, performed on a volunteer basis, earned him recognition in 1987 by the Alabama Broadcasters Association as Alabama's Citizen of the Year. In 1988, he was appointed by Governor Hunt as voluntary chairman of the Alabama Reunion, a 2-year statewide celebration and promotion of the State's heritage and economic development opportunities. As the architect of this nationally recognized program, he was awarded the 1992 National Governor's Association Award for Distinguished Service to State Government.

Despite his impressive accomplishments in government, business, and politics, it is through athletics that he has had perhaps his greatest influence. Edgar has a special place in his heart for young people, and with his keen insight, he has found ways to utilize athletics to promote character and education and improve the lives of young people across our State.

His accomplishments in this regard are too many to list comprehensively. His work with high school athletics includes the Crippled Children's Foundation, where he currently serves as chairman, and the Monday Morning Quarterback Club, where he is a board member. In 2002, he founded the non-profit Birmingham Athletic Partnership to support the city's middle and high school athletic programs. This program has provided Birmingham city schools with over \$3.5 million in financial support. Edgar believes that children in the inner city should have the same chances for athletic success as better funded programs and his goal is to ensure their athletes, bands, and

cheerleaders are able to compete on a level playing field. In addition, since 2003, he has served as the chairman and president of the hugely successful Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program, which has awarded over \$9 million college scholarships to more than 2,700 student-athletes in Alabama who excelled athletically and scholastically while overcoming adversity. In 2006, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as a member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness & Sports.

Edgar also serves as chairman of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Museum, a true State treasure which maintains for generations to come the stories of legendary Alabama athletes whose stories never fail to inspire us today. Many say it is the best sports hall of fame in America. And in a great victory for the city of Birmingham, he co-chaired the committee that landed the 2021 World Games. This was a huge effort to land this event, and Edgar used all his energy and people skills to do so. He was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2007 and was recently elected to the board of directors of the National Football Foundation. Indeed, while he would never say so himself, perhaps no other sportsman in the country has done more for their State than Edgar has for Alabama.

Edgar also serves on the president's cabinet at the University of Alabama and, in 2010, was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has accomplished all of this while building a successful business career in real estate development and property management. An essential part of his success has been the support and partnership of his wonderful wife, Louise. She is a star in her own right and has always enjoyed seeing young people grow and progress. They are a great pair. Edgar and Louise get great pleasure out of random acts of kindness. On a plane flight, Edgar met the wife of a soldier that was returning from combat—so typical of his generosity, Edgar arranged for them to have the honeymoon suite in his hotel for free. Edgar and Louise are people of generosity, patriotism, and positive spirit. To know Edgar and Louise is to love them.

For all of his accomplishments, I commend and congratulate my friend today. Being named to receive the Distinguished American Sportsman Award is a fitting honor indeed. It is appropriate that our Nation pauses periodically to recognize, celebrate, and give thanks to citizens like Edgar and Louise whose lives make our country so wonderful.●

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 87. An act to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1815. An act to facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada.

H.R. 2009. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona.

H.R. 2733. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3070. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to permit striped bass fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone transit zone between Montauk, New York, and Point Judith, Rhode Island, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4904. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4906. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the eligibility of employees of a land management agency in a time-limited appointment to compete for a permanent appointment at any Federal agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5273. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for regulatory relief under the Medicare program for certain providers of services and suppliers and increased transparency in hospital coding and enrollment data, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5338. An act to reduce passenger wait times at airports, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 129. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to this goal through a financial commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 3(a) of the Evidence-Based Policy Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-140), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking: Mr. Ron Haskins of Rockville, Maryland, Co-Chairman, Mr. Bruce Meyer of Chicago, Illinois, and Mr. Robert Hahn of Hillsboro Beach, Florida.

## MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 87. An act to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated